

**Claims**

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of external localization of a software product comprising:
  - 5 loading a base product having one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data;
  - converting the base product to a language specific localized product during the loading of the base product using the base product and at least one language map containing language specific data; and
  - 10 executing the localized product in place of the base product.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the base product to a language specific localized product comprises:
  - intercepting the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data;
  - 15 retrieving language specific data from the language map based on the one or more calls to the operating system; and
  - inserting the language specific data into the base product to produce the localized product.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data reference the language specific data in the language map.
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the language specific data in the language map comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime generated strings.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the base product is language neutral.

6. A system comprising:
  - a processor; and
  - a memory coupled with an readable by the processor and containing a series of
    - 5 instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to load a base product having one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data, convert to base product to a language specific localized product during the loading of the base product using the base product and at least one language map containing language specific data, and execute the localized product
    - 10 in place of the base product.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein converting the base product to a language specific localized product comprises:
  - 15 intercepting the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data;
  - retrieving language specific data from the language map based on the one or more calls to the operating system; and
  - inserting the language specific data into the base product to produce the localized product.
- 20 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data reference the language specific data in the language map.
9. The system of claim 6, wherein the language specific data in the language map comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime generated strings.
- 25 10. The system of claim 6, wherein the base product is language neutral.

11. A computer readable medium encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for external localization, said computer process comprising:
  - 5 loading a base product having one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data;
  - converting the base product to a language specific localized product during the loading of the base product using the base product and at least one language map containing language specific data; and
  - executing the localized product in place of the base product.

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12. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein converting the base product to a localized product comprises:
  - intercepting the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data;
  - retrieving language specific data from the language map based on the one or more calls to the operating system; and
  - inserting the language specific data into the base product to produce the localized product.

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13. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data reference the language specific data in the language map.

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14. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the language specific data in the language map comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime generated strings.

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15. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the base product is language neutral.

16. A method of generating a software product comprising:
  - generating a base product comprising computer executable instructions including one or more calls to an operating system , the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data; and
  - 5 generating at least one language map for storing the language specific data.
17. The method of claim 17, further comprising generating a translation layer, the translation layer to intercept the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data, retrieve language specific data from the language map based on the one or more calls to the operating system, and insert the language specific data into the base product to convert the base product to a localized product.
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18. The method of claim 17, further comprising distributing the translation layer as part of an operating system.
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19. The method of claim 16, wherein the one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data reference the language specific data in the language map.
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20. The method of claim 16, wherein the language specific data in the language map comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime generated strings.
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21. A computer readable medium encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for external localization, said computer process comprising:
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a base product comprising computer executable instructions including one or more calls to an operating system , the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data; and at least one language map for storing the language specific data.

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22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, further comprising a translation layer, the translation layer to intercept the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data, retrieve language specific data from the language map based on the one or more calls to the operating system, and insert the language specific data into the base product to convert the base product to a localized product.  
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23. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data reference the language specific data in the language map.  
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24. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the language specific data in the language map comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime generated strings.